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Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 SCS-03 L-03 EB-11 SCA-01 H-02

INR-10 PRS-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

USIA-12 IGA-02 RSR-01 COME-00 INT-08 /072 W
---------- 083531
R 282110 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8392
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMCONSUL BELEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 4044

TAGS: EFIS, BR
SUBJ: REPORTED HARRASSMENT OF US SHRIMP TRAWLERS

REF: (A) BRASILIA 2393; (B) STATE 77713

MEXICO CITY FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FROM FONOFF FOLLOWING REPLY TO INQUIRY MADE IN REF A, IN FORM OF AIDE MEMOIRE, CONCERNING REPORTED INTERFERENCE OF US SHRIMP BOATS BY BRAZILIAN NAVY ON APRIL 24.

BEGIN TEXT. WITH RESPECT TO THE ALLEGED ACTION BY SHIPS OF THE BRAZILIAN NAVY IN RELATION TO THE AMERICAN FISHING BOATS, BLUE HORIZON II AND HIGH SEAS II, THE COMMAND OF NAVAL OPERATIONS HAS REPORTED THAT NO OPERATION WAS CONDUCTED HAVING AS OBJECT THE CITED FISHING BOATS.

IN ACTUALITY WHAT OCCURRED WAS THAT THE SHRIMPERS HAD BEEN OVERFLOWN BY AIRCRAFT OF THE BRAZILIAN AIR FORCE ON APRIL 25, 1973 FOR THE PURPOSE OF VISUAL RECONNAISSANCE. END TEXT.

2. DURING EMBASSY' S JUNE 1 MEETING WITH GOB OFFICIALS ON
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SHRIMP PROBLEMS, AN OFFICER OF BRAZILIAN NAVY MENTIONED THEY WERE SURPRISED AT REPORT THAT BRAZILIAN VESSELS HAD HARRASSED US SHRIMP BOATS. HE SAID THAT INVESTIGATION INDICATED THERE WERE NO BRAZILIAN VESSELS IN AREA AT TIME OF INCIDENT. HE DID MENTION THAT SURVEILLANCE VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT FREQUENTLY HAVE TO APPROACH SHRIMPERS FAIRLY CLOSELY BECAUSE MANY DO NOT CLEARLY DISPLAY UB IDENTI-FICATION NUMBERS AND DO NOT FLY US FLAG WHILE ENGAGED IN FISHING OPERATIONS.

3. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF AIDE MEMOIRE, EMBASSY ECON OFFICER, IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH FONOFF OFFICIALS, COMMENTED THAT THE NAVY' S REPORT SEEMED INCOMPLETE IN LIGHT OF THE SPECIFIC INFORMATION REPORTED BY THE US BOATS, PARTICULARLY IDENTIFICATION OF THE NAVAL VESSEL INVOLVED, AND ASKED FOR MORE DETAILS. FONOFF HAS NOW INFORMED EMBASSY THAT FURTHER INVESTIGATION BY STAFF OF NAVY MINISTER CONFIRMS EARLIER REPORT. IT INDICATED THAT ON NIGHT OF APRIL 24, FOUR NAVAL VESSELS, 2 SMALL PATROL BOATS AND 2 CORVETTES, WERE IN SHRIMP AGREEMENT AREA AND THAT NONE, INCLUDING CORVETTE V-22, HAD CONTACT WITH US FISHING BOATS. NAVY REPORTED THAT NEITHER VESSELS NOR AIRCRAFT P-15, THAT MADE LOW ALTITUDE OVERFLIGHT, HAD ANY COMMUNICATION, BY VOICE OR SIGNAL, WITH US BOATS.
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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